

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1447

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSL ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3771

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PINS, PFOR, BG, IN, US

SUBJ: ADMIRAL KHAN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. I CALLED ON DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ADMIRAL KHAN TODAY TO GET HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HIS RECEPTION THERE WITH SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HELD WITH SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF BANGLADESH'S SITUATION AND WHAT WAS NOW IMPORTANT WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP TO HIS VISIT. THIS FOLLOW-UP, HE MADE CLEAR, SHOULD BE ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPLYING MILITARY-RELATED EQUIPMENT TO BDG.

2. DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. ADMIRAL KHAN SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS THAT THE QUESTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA HINGED ON STATE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION; THAT IF THIS EVALUTATION WERE POSITIVE, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN MEETING BDG REQUIREMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE SECRETARY THAT UNFORTUNATELY
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BDG WAS NOT ABLE TO COVER ITS NEEDS THROUGH COMMERICAL

PURCHASES AND WOULD EITHER NEED HELP WITH CREDIT OR THROUGH SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE ASKING FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN TO PUT TOGETHER AN UPDATED LISTING OF BDG REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATION TO ME, AND IN THIS CONNECTION HANDED ME A LISTING OF NAVY EQUIPMENT WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE PART OF THE OVERALL DOCUMENT TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. (WE WILL NOT BE TRANSMITTING NAVY LIST, PENDING RECEIPT OF OVERALL SUMMARY.) I REMINDED ADMIRAL KHAN THAT WE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED EARLIER LIST WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME ITEMS ON CURRENT LIST THAT WERE NEW; FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT ASHVILLE-TYPE PATROL BOATS WERE IDEALLY SUITED TO BANGLADESH WATERS AND THERE WAS REQUIREMENT FOR THREE OF THESE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER ABOUT A SURVEY SHIP, AND SAID THIS WAS ALSO ON THEIR LIST.

3. RELATIONS WITH INDIA. KHAN INEVITABLY REFERRED TO INDIA IN THE COURSE OF HIS DISCUSSION OF BANGLADESH'S NEED FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WHEN I VENTURED OBSERVATION THAT THERE SEEMED FAR LESS CRITICISM OF INDIA IN BANGLADESH PRESS SINCE VISIT OF INDIAN GOODWILL MISSION, KHAN SAID I MUST NOT ATTRIBUTE THIS TO ANY CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY INDIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT, WHICH IN FACT HAD CHANGED NOTHING. THE REAL REASON, HE SAID, FOR ANY DROP OFF IN ATTENTION TO INDIAN PROBLEMS WAS THE WEATHER; WITH THE MONSOONS, IT WAS NATURAL THAT THE WATER PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE FARAKKA BARRAGE DID NOT LOOM AS LARGE FOR THE BANGLADESH PUBLIC. HE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA DID NOT ARISE IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW INITIATIVE, NOTING THAT INDIA WOULD LIKE BANGLADESH TO SETTLE FOR AN INTERIM SOLUTION IN WHICH BDG WAS INSISTING ON LONG-TERM SOLUTION. ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE BORDER, KHAN SAID IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE HAD BEEN FEWER INCIDENTS ALONG THE BORDER RECENTLY THAN THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER.

4. DIFFICULTIES AT BORGRA. I ASKED HIM HOW SERIOUS THE REPORTED DIFFICULTIES AT BOGRA HAD BEEN AND WHETHER IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL OVER. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE ABSOLUTELY NO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM WHAT HAPPEN IN BOGRA. ALTHOUGH HE PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED -- NOTING THAT HE WAS STILL OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE TIME -- OR WHAT HAD CAUSED THE DISTURBANCES, HE WAS ABLE TO SAY THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF "INDISCIPLINE", THAT THE OFFENDING PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND WOULD BE COURT MARTIALED, AND HE WAS SURE THAT WE WOULD BE

HEARING LESS AND LESS OF SUCH INDISCIPLINE. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONNECTION OF LT. COL. FAROOK WITH THE CUASE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID IT WAS TRUE THAT IT WAS FAROOK'S GANG WHICH HAD BEEN INVOLVED BUT HE WAS SURE THAT FAROOK HAD NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE DIFFICULTIES. HE ASKED ME IF I WERE AWARE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INDIAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN THESE PROBLEMS OF MILITARYS INDISCIPLINE. WHEN I SAID THAT I HAD READ THE PRESS ACCOUNT SUGGESTING THIS POSSIBLITY IN CONNECTION WITH JSD, KHAF REPLIED THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS.

5. ELECTIONS. WHEN I ASKED THE ADMIRAL ABOUT THE RESUMPTION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY NEXT MONTH, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD DEFINITELY BE RESUMED IN AUGUST. HE SAID THEY WERE NOW CONSIDERING THE MODALITIES FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR RESUMPTION WHEN THESE MODALITIES HAD BEEN CLARIFIED.

6. COMMENT. ADMIRAL KHAN CLEARLY SEES HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ESSENTIALLY IN TERMS OF THE OPPORTUNITY IT GAVE HIM TO PRESENT HIS CASE FOR BANGLADESH'S MILITARY NEEDS DIRECTLY TO TOP U.S. OFFICIALS, AND HE APPEARS TO FEELS THAT HE HAS MADE AN EFFECTIVE CASE WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, WHILE IN FACT HE COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC ASSITANCE NEEDS DURING HIS WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS, HIS SOLE PREOCCUPATION IN REVIEWING THESE TALKS TODAY WAS WITH THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WE WILL BE TRANSMITTING THE NEW LIST FROM THE FORIENG SECRETARY WHEN WE RECEIVE IT, BUT SUSPECT IT MAY NOT DIFFER RADICALLY FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LISTS ALREADY PROVIDED IN DACCA'S 2150.
BOSTER

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